SOUTHAMPTON AND DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Tuesday, 3rd December 2019 St Joseph's Hall, Bugle Street, Southampton

PAKISTAN PROVISIONAL OVERPRINTS Dr MARTIN ROBINSON

Present: Julian Jones (President), Mel Bradshaw (Chairman), and 24 Members, as per attached list.
Apologies: No Apologies had been received

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. The Chairman welcomed the members to this evening's meeting.
2. There were two sets of Minutes to be approved and signed:
   a. 5th November The President's Evening
   b. 19th November Members' Letter "U", Bourse & Silent Auction

   Both sets were approved by the members attending and signed by the Chairman.
3. The Coffee and Tea Rota still needed volunteers. The four "Team Leaders"; Lorraine, Patrick, Brian & Dave Edwards, would be looking for ONE volunteer each meeting to help with the serving of the refreshments. The Leaders would ensure that supplies were available.
4. Key Holders: At present only the Chairman and Vice-Chairman were key holders and able to open up the hall. One or two members were needed to join the rota. The only duty was to hold a key for the hall and when it was their turn to be able to open the hall for 6:30 pm.
5. **Mike Watts (Treasurer)** was in attendance to take any outstanding 2020 Subscriptions.

Kevin Chard (Vice-Chairman)

6. Told members he had been contacted by Milford-on-Sea P. S. to see if any of our members would like to speak at one of their Tuesday afternoon meetings. Anyone interested should talk to him during the interval.
7. There was no meeting on the 3rd Tuesday this month.
8. The first meeting in January would be a Members' "Letter V" and the second January meeting would be the first Club Auction of 2020.
9. The Chandler's Ford Thursday meeting would be on the 12th December and members are reminded that this would be the last meeting held at the old venue.
10. The Society had received two collections that would not be in the January auction. One of them contained a great deal of modern GB, including lots of Presentation Packs, between 1999 – 2012. These might be available outside of the auctions.

Mel Bradshaw concluded the announcements be saying that Postmark, the January Auction Catalogue and the 2020 Programme would be posted to members as soon as they were all available.

Julian Jones was delighted to welcome Society Member Dr Martin Robinson who was going to talk about "Pakistan Provisional Overprints"

Before his presentation Martin explained that as he had been a member for 30 years he thought that he should now contribute to the speaker's programme. His interest in stamps had started at an early age but had become more serious in his late teens and then really developed when in his late 30's – early 40's he had sold his first GB collection and then started to look at tonight's subject, which he has found to be endlessly interesting, in part because of the variety of material. In the first

half he would be talking and displaying machine overprints and in the second part he would be showing hand printing from local Post Offices.

Part 1 – Machine Overprints
Pakistan gained independence on the 14th August 1947. The political decision was made that the new country would not use Indian stamps rather they would overprint them until new Pakistani stamps were available. The whole issue of independence was subject to uncertainty. Borders were ill-defined, districts tended to migrate to India if the population majority was Hindu and conversely the Muslims migrated to Pakistan but religious minorities existed in all districts. This confusion also existed within the Postal Services. Any and all stamps, regardless of era, were overprinted and were valid. The machine printing tended to be done in the larger centres; Karachi, Lahore and Peshawal and were done on larger sheets of stamps and in greater quantities. Frames 2 & 3 of the display showed many examples, both of stamps and covers. Peshawal featured on Frame 4 whilst the final frame gave examples from the Gulf States where India had previously operated the Postal Services. These were taken over by Pakistan when they achieved independence. The final frame also included some of the rarer Muscat material together with one example of a postmark forgery. Forgeries were a known problem with overprints but are reasonably simple to detect in most cases.

REFRESHMENTS & RAFFLE

During the interval the Chairman told members that the Secretary was going AWOL to get his shoulder fixed and help would be needed to take the Minutes for the next few Meetings. Any help would be appreciated. Also the Raffle was in need of prizes, particularly philatelic material, and any unwanted Christmas presents would be welcomed.

Part 2 – Handstamp Overprinting
In this part Martin concentrated on handstamp overprinting which was mainly done on single stamps or in small quantities. Frame 1 dealt with Peshawal as one of the main centres that used both metal and rubber handstamps. In 2018 Martin explained that he had acquired a collection of Overprints from Stanley Gibbons and amongst this collection was a four page document that described in great detail the sorts of conditions under which the hand overprinting was done. From this description it was easy to see how the immense variations of hand overprinting came about. The second frame showed material from the Punjab and the third frame had examples from both Kashmir and Quetta including some very rare early telegraphic covers that didn't exist, officially, at one point. Frame 4 concentrated on material from East Pakistan, which is much rarer but did have examples of both machine and hand printing and had some Postal stationery. The final frame rounded off the display with some National Saving Certificates.

In proposing the Vote of Thanks Mike Watts said that he had seen this evening more Arabian States material than he had managed to acquire for his own collection in many years.

In closing the meeting the Chairman, Mel Bradshaw, wished everyone a Happy Christmas, thanked them for attending and wished them a safe journey home

The meeting closed at 21:10 Signed: ……..

Date: …… Position: ……..